

Current Status – ESSC Project

January 15, 2008

The Enterprise Systems Services Centers (ESSC) Project continues to move forward. Following are major areas of effort:

1. The design process continues with developing conceptual designs for both the Helena and eastern Montana ESSC facilities. The consultants are using an established growth model, current hardware and applications inventories, design best practices associated with Tier III facilities and discussions with both ITSD and agency IT staff to arrive at capacity requirements. Requirement definition and a conceptual design report are expected February 1.
2. Site selection work continues for the **Eastern Montana ESSC** site. Extensive work has been done on the communications cost estimates for the Forsyth and Miles City sites and the resulting cost estimates have been lowered. A site assessment analysis has been prepared and the draft was reviewed at the public meetings mentioned below. Public participation/comment opportunities, including written and email comments are being taken through January 18 and public participation meetings in the candidate communities were held January 8-10. Comments from all sources will be summarized for the State CIO and a final assessment document prepared for the decision, targeted for February 1.
3. We are approaching a decision on the **Helena site** selection. Architects are preparing site alternative schematic drawings which will be augmented with civil engineering requirements for a final selection. An agreement with MDT will then be drafted.
4. We are a few days away from submission of an application for a FEMA “Pre-Disaster Mitigation” grant. If successful, it would help defray the cost of the Eastern Montana facility. The grant application involves a complicated FEMA “benefit cost analysis” that required engaging a consultant experienced in these grants. We should know within a few weeks of submission if the grant is qualified for consideration for a competitive award.

For additional information please contact Mike Boyer (x3279).